

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims [[1]] 6, 9 or 13, wherein said ~~inclined portion has a~~ front surface of the inclined portion is inclined at an angle of from 30 to 60 degrees with respect to [[the]] a horizontal plane when the golf club head is in a measuring state.

3. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims [[1]] 6, 9 or 13, wherein a vertical extent of said front surface of the inclined portion is in a range of from 3 to 30 mm when the golf club head is in a measuring state.

4. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims [[1]] 9 or 13, wherein said inclined portion has a substantially constant thickness.

5. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims [[1]] 9 or 13, wherein said inclined portion has a thickness gradually decreasing from the lower edge to the upper edge of the front surface of the inclined portion.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The golf club head according to claim 1, wherein~~

A golf club head comprising:

a face portion having a front face defining a club face for hitting a ball and a back

surface;

a sole portion extending backwards from a lower edge of the face portion; and

a backside wall extending upwards from the sole portion and having a free upper end,

said backside wall comprising an inclined portion inclined frontward so that a distance of a front surface of the inclined portion from said back surface of the face portion gradually decreases from a lower edge to an upper edge of the front surface of the inclined portion,

wherein said inclined portion has a thickness gradually decreasing from the lower edge to the upper edge[[, and]] of the front surface of the inclined portion so that the minimum thickness (t3) is at least 0.5 times the maximum thickness (t2).

7. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claim [[1]] 13, wherein the sole portion has a thickness gradually increasing backwards from the front end of the sole portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claim [[1]] 13, wherein the sole portion has a thickness gradually increasing backwards[[, and]] from the front end of the sole portion so that the thickness ratio (t1/t2) of a maximum ~~thickness~~ value (t1) to a minimum ~~thickness~~ value (t2) of the thickness is at most 3.5.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The golf club head according to claim 1, wherein~~

A golf club head comprising:

a face portion having a front face defining a club face for hitting a ball and a back

surface;

a sole portion extending backwards from a lower edge of the face portion; and
a backside wall extending upwards from the sole portion and having a free upper end,
said backside wall comprising an inclined portion inclined frontward so that a distance of a front
surface of the inclined portion from said back surface of the face portion gradually decreases
from a lower edge to an upper edge of the front surface of the inclined portion,
wherein the sole portion has a thickness gradually increasing backwards from the front
end of the sole portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the sole portion has a thickness gradually increasing backwards~~[[, and]]~~ from the front end of the sole portion so that the thickness ratio (t_1/t_2) of a maximum thickness value (t_1) to a minimum thickness value (t_2) of the thickness is at least 0.2.

11. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims ~~[[1]]~~ 6 or 13, wherein the sole portion has a substantially constant thickness.

12. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims ~~[[1]]~~ 6, 9 or 13, wherein the upper end of the backside wall is positioned at a height in a range of from 10 to 30 mm from a horizontal plane when the golf club head is in a measuring state.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The golf club head according to claim 1, wherein~~
A golf club head comprising:

a face portion having a front face defining a club face for hitting a ball and a back surface;

a sole portion extending backwards from a lower edge of the face portion; and

a backside wall extending upwards from the sole portion and having a free upper end, said backside wall comprising an inclined portion inclined frontward so that a distance of a front surface of the inclined portion from said back surface of the face portion gradually decreases from a lower edge to an upper edge of the front surface of the inclined portion,

wherein when said the distance between the front surface of the inclined portion from said back surface of the face portion is measured perpendicularly to the club face, the ratio (L2/L1) of a minimum distance value (L2) to a maximum distance value (L1) of the distance is in a range of from 0.1 to 0.7.

14. (Currently Amended) The golf club head according to claims [[1]] 9 or 13, wherein the sole portion has a thickness (t1) at the front end thereof and a thickness (t2) at the rear end thereof, and the ratio (t1/t2) of the thickness (t1) to the thickness (t2) is in a range of from 0.2 to 3.5.